

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, November 19, 2015

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, November 19, at 5:30 p.m. by Rick Swalwell.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Rick Swalwell	Forrest Ridgway	Mike Chambers	Joe Hrdlicka
Present	X	X	X	X	By phone

Staff	Susan Mathews <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Gary Scott <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>
Present	X	X	X	X

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Ridgway moved to approve the agenda as presented. Chambers seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No items.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2015 Meeting

Chambers moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

No items.

New Business:

On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Recommendation to Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council – West Des Moines Library Tale Trail – Ashawa Park

Scott noted that staff have been working with the WDM Library on the Tale Trail project. Scott introduced Darryl Eschete, Library Director. Eschete noted that the Friends of the WDM Library chose a story walk project for a \$6,000 donation from Mary Brooks in memory of her husband Bob Brooks. The Friends of the WDM Library will help cover additional installation costs. He added that tale trails are a good way for libraries to be involved in the community outside the confines of their buildings. He noted that while most local examples are temporary in nature, these enclosures are more permanent and allow for stories to be changed out. Eschete gave his thanks to Park Planner, Marco Alvarez for his help with the project. Chambers asked how often the stories will be changed. Eschete responded that the plan is to change them out quarterly. Councilman Trimble asked what ages will be served. Eschete responded that generally the stories will be geared toward pre-reading through around age 8 or 2nd grade.

It was moved by Ridgway to approve the recommendation to Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council – West Des Moines Library Tale Trail – Ashawa Park. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Ortgies shared that staff is preparing for the first snow of the season. She added that Parks restrooms are now winterized but that due to the unusually warm weather some restroom were able to remain open into November.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen noted that the Community Center renovation is ongoing. He added that the new Parks and Recreation software package discovery phase is underway.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Scott shared that staff had a meeting with WDM Water Works staff regarding a location for a fourth deep well. He added that there are two shallow wells in Holiday Park that are not producing. Staff determined a location that would work best for a deep well. Scott noted that Water Works staff still have more research to do to ensure the site will work. The aesthetics and engineering involved with the planning process were discussed. Chambers noted that it is an unusable area anyway so it would be a good spot. Schebel asked if there would be loss of use of the parking lot in that area during construction. Scott responded that staff would ask that the timing of the construction have as little impact as possible. Scott shared that he will be attending the VJ neighborhood association meeting on Saturday. He shared that the Trail Art Selection Committee will meet on December 2 to narrow the submissions to three finalists.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Swalwell inquired about the encroachments along Waterford Greenway. Scott responded that the City Attorneys have drafted a letter to the residents that will be reviewed by City Council prior to being sent. Scott noted that staff are unified that the encroachments are so blatant that it cannot be allowed to set a precedence. Hrdlicka asked if the residents have any idea that this letter will be coming. Scott responded that he has interacted with at least one of the residents. Trimble inquired about selling the land to the residents. Scott responded that the land was dedicated as a part of the development which would make a sale difficult. He added that he would not recommend selling any park property just based on the fact that someone put a basketball court on it illegally. Trimble acknowledged that it would be setting a precedence but he shared that he knows it could be difficult situation. Chambers and Swalwell agreed that the precedence of allowing the items to remain on City property could create issues in other parts of the City.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

On Item 8A. City Council Communications

November 2, 2015: Motion – Adoption of Bicycle Master Plan

Chambers moved to adjourn. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Heather Schebel
Advisory Board Secretary